

### **Why Do I Need a Visa?**

Entry to the United States is a two stage process. The first step is a determination by a Consular Officer at an Embassy or Consulate that an individual is eligible for admission to the United States. The second part of the process is inspection by an immigration officer at the port of entry. Student visas (F-1) are required for all foreigners who plan to study in the United States.

### **How do I go about getting a Student Visa?**

Prospective students may apply for a U.S. visa through the U.S. Embassy appointment scheduling contractor - Saimon Overseas, House # 4A, Road # 22, Gulshan-1, Tel: 9882273-4, 9860393. Saimon Overseas will schedule the student visa applicant for a personal interview at the U.S. Embassy. Additional information concerning student visa application procedures can be found at [http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/student\\_visas.html](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/student_visas.html).

### **Where can I get more information?**

Each student's situation and needs are different. We recommend that if you want to study in the United States, you visit the Educational Advising Office at the American Center, House # 110, Road # 27, Banani, Dhaka 1213, Sunday thru Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. There you will find catalogs, guides, CD-ROM, test registration bulletins and advice from The Educational Advisor.

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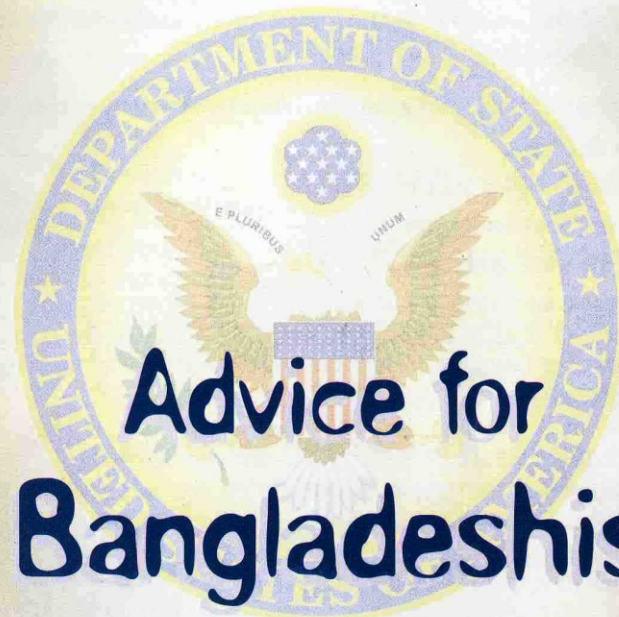
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# **Advice for Bangladeshis Planning to Study in the United States**



A few universities will conditionally admit students without a TOEFL score, but these students must sit for an English examination at the university before they can enroll in classes. These courses are very expensive and can delay the start of your degree program by as much as one year. Even if you plan to take an ESL course, you should sit for the TOEFL before you go. If you do not submit a valid TOEFL score, your chance of admission will be reduced. You must enroll for the TOEFL test in advance. TOEFL has become computerized in Bangladesh. Effective April 2008, the TOEFL fee is \$150.00

#### **What score do I need on the TOEFL to be admitted?**

Each College or university decides what TOEFL score it requires. Many schools want a score iBT 80 (CBT 213) or above, others require at least iBT 100 (CBT 250). However, an acceptable TOEFL score depends entirely on the requirements of each institution.

#### **SAT I (Reasoning Test) and SAT II (Subject Test):**

These exams are for undergraduate applicants and test general academic aptitude and educational background. Test fee for SAT I is \$71.00. SAT II subject tests are often required for financial aid applicants, specific academic majors, and those applying to highly competitive schools. The test fee for SAT II ranges from \$55.00 - \$73.00,

#### **GMAT test:**

Applicants in graduate business administration or management need to take the GMAT test. GMAT is a computer adaptive test. Currently the GMAT test consists of nine separately timed sections: Two 30-minute writing tests and seven 25 minute multiple-choice sections. The GMAT tests general, verbal, mathematical and analytical writing skills that are developed over a long period of time and are associated with success in the first year of study in graduate schools of management. The test fee for GMAT is \$250.00.

#### **GRE test:**

All prospective graduate students seeking admission in most disciplines except for the business administration field are required to take the GRE test. It is a computer adaptive test. The current GRE test fee is \$170.00. The present GRE general test is composed of verbal, quantitative and

analytical writing.

Please note that GRE subject tests are no longer offered in Bangladesh.

Examinees who register for the TOEFL, GRE, GMAT and SAT in Bangladesh will be required to present a valid passport as identification. No other form of identification will be accepted at test centers in this country.

Please make certain that you have a valid passport available before registering for these tests administration, since no exception to the passport requirement will be made by the test center staff on the day of the test.

*NOTE: All test fees are subject to change with prior notice.*

#### **When will my test scores be sent to the Universities?**

The scores of SAT I & SAT II tests are sent to the universities approximately four weeks after the test date. GRE, GMAT & TOEFL scores are sent approximately three weeks after taking the test.

#### **For how long will scores be valid?**

TOEFL scores are valid for two years. GRE, GMAT, SAT I and SAT II scores are valid for five years.

#### **Is it important for the university to be accredited?**

YES, very important. The U.S. government does not accredit or control colleges or universities. Instead, there are six regional accrediting associations which accredit institutions that have met basic standards in their academic programs. There are also professional associations that accredit individual degree programs at a university in fields such as engineering and business administration, computer science etc. These accredited colleges and universities are listed in the book Accredited Institutions of the Post-Secondary Education published yearly by the American Council on Education ([www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org)).

Don't assume the University is accredited, even if it says it is. Check to make sure in this book at the American Center Educational Advising Center.

If the institution you choose is not accredited, your degree will not be considered valid and courses that you have taken will not be transferred to accredited universities. Your degree will be worthless.



### **How much money do I need to study in the U.S. for one year?**

The amount of money you need depends on which college or university you have chosen to attend. Tuition for one year may cost U.S. \$20,000 to \$25,000. Some of the most expensive private colleges and universities cost as much as \$30,000 per year or more. Additional funds are needed to cover living expenses (\$10,000-\$15,000) and will vary greatly based on what part of the U.S. the university or college is in. Be sure your sponsor has enough funds available for at least your tuition and expenses during your first year in the U.S. Your sponsor should also know how he/she would support you for subsequent years of study.

### **Can I get financial aid from the college or university?**

It is extremely difficult for a foreign student to obtain financial aid for undergraduate studies (Bachelors degree), so you must not expect it. The competition is intense and you must be an outstanding student. Usually only private colleges and universities offer financial aid to undergraduates. Financial aid seldom covers full tuition, so a student must be prepared to pay any portion of tuition not covered by financial aid and all his/her living expenses even if he/she does get a scholarship.

Students studying for a graduate degree (Masters, Doctorate) have more opportunities for financial aid from both public and private universities. Often the financial aid comes in the form of a research or teaching assistantship. These awards may cover tuition expenses and provide a monthly stipend.

### **When can I apply for financial aid?**

Application for financial aid should be made to the university at the same time as your application for admission. The deadline for financial aid applications is usually in the month of January or February preceding September admission.

### **Can I get a job while I am studying?**

No. The terms of your visa do not allow you to work unless you are employed in an on-campus job or in practical training sponsored or approved by the university. On-campus jobs are difficult to obtain and do not provide enough funds to cover tuition or living expenses.

### **Who can be my financial sponsor?**

Most students are sponsored by family members living in Bangladesh or

in other countries. For the first year, the student must demonstrate that the required funds are readily available. For subsequent years, the student needs to show the income-generating sources from which the funds are going to be maintained. Your sponsor must submit financial documentation showing that he/she has sufficient funds to pay for your entire course of study.

### **Standardized tests:**

Test Name	Requirement	Administered by	Website address
TOEFL	For all Bangladeshi students	ETS	<a href="http://www.ets.org">www.ets.org</a> <a href="http://www.toefl.org">www.toefl.org</a>
SAT I	To pursue 4-year undergraduate study	College Board	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>
SAT II	OPTIONAL - for undergraduate students	College Board	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>
GMAT	To pursue Masters/PhD in Business fields	Pearson Vue AP GMAT Candidate Services	<a href="http://www.mba.com">www.mba.com</a>
GRE	To pursue Masters/PhD in Non-Business fields	ETS	<a href="http://www.ets.org">www.ets.org</a> <a href="http://www.gre.org">www.gre.org</a>

### **How do I know which tests to take?**

This information is available in the reference section at the Educational Advising Center. Look in the general reference works on colleges and universities, the individual university catalogues and carefully read the application materials you receive from the universities.

### **Can I gain admission to a college or university without the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)?**

All students from Bangladesh must take the TOEFL examination. Almost all universities require the TOEFL for foreign students from countries where the medium of instruction is not English. By preparing for and taking the TOEFL, you will know your level of English and also have a chance to improve your skills before going to the U.S. Having proficiency in English is a very important factor to be successful at an American college or university.



Going to the United States for higher studies can truly be a unique experience for international students as it opens up new horizons and helps them explore a new world. However, it can be a complicated, unfamiliar and expensive process. There are more than 3000 accredited colleges and universities in the U.S., and they vary in terms of quality, competitiveness, size, character and cost. To help prospective students understand the process of applying more clearly, answers to the most commonly asked questions are outlined below.

### **Who is eligible to apply for admission into a US university or college?**

Any one who has:

- A consistently good academic record
- Sufficient financial support
- Proficiency in English

To be eligible for undergraduate study (Bachelors degree), you must have completed 12 years of formal education. For admission into graduate study (Masters / Doctorate degrees) you must have completed 16 years of formal education.

### **How can I go to the U.S. to study?**

There are many steps involved in going to the U.S. to study. First, you must have a strong academic background, solid financial support and very good English language skills. If you plan to apply for a Bachelor's degree program, you must have completed at least 12 years of primary and secondary school or the equivalent of an S.S.C. and H.S.C. in Bangladesh. If you want to apply for a Master's degree, you must have had 16 years of education in Bangladesh (the equivalent of the U.S. Bachelor's degree).

Next, you must decide which colleges or universities interest you. There are over 3000 accredited colleges and universities in the U.S. Your selection will probably be based on several factors: does the school offer a good degree program in your field, is it competitive, how much does it cost, does it offer financial aid to international students, how big is the school, where is it located, is it accredited? The Educational Advising Center at The American Center has many reference books and university bulletins to help you compare institutions and make the best choice for you.

After you have selected approximately 10-15 institutions that interest you, you should check each university's website and find out admission requirements and the specific program you are interested in. The Educational Advising Center at the American Center has sample pre-application forms. This process should be started at least one year before you plan to enroll. Most students enter U.S. universities in August/September, but some universities also admit students in January and March.

You will need to register for any examinations the college or university requires. All students should take the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). Registration forms for the TOEFL and other tests are available at the American Center Educational Advising Office.

Finally, after you have received information and application forms from the universities, you need to select four to six schools. Send completed application forms, along with all other required documents, directly to the college or university. Be sure to send the documents well in advance of each school's application deadline date. Be aware that deadline dates may vary from school to school. Required documents usually include: certified copies of your school transcripts (certificates and mark sheets), test scores, letters of recommendations, the application fee and financial documents showing you have enough money to pay for your education and living expenses. The Ministry of Education, respective Board Offices, Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the issuing institution where you studied, should certify transcripts.

When you have submitted everything the school requires, you will eventually receive a letter from the college or university either accepting or rejecting your application. If you are accepted, the college or university will send you a letter of acceptance and an I-20 form (Certificate of Eligibility for Student Status Visa). You must have this form before you can apply for a visa.

### **What do the terms undergraduate and graduate mean?**

An undergraduate is someone studying for a U.S. bachelors degree at a college or university. A graduate student is someone who is currently studying for a U.S. masters degree, a Ph. D or a professional degree in such fields as law, medicine, etc. The term 'a graduate' means someone who has received a B.A., M.A. or a doctorate from an accredited institutions, i.e. "she is a graduate of Harvard University; he is a Stanford graduate".